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Yeovil Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER, 1949

Whitby, Printer, Yeovil

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health :

P. P. FOX, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

CHARLES A. WILSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

BRYNMOR MORRIS, M.S.I.A.

Assistant Housing Inspector :

S. R. BARHAM.

Assistant Housing Manager :

(Miss) D. K. WASSELL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS of YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1949.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In general the health of the community has been satisfactory, the number of births shows an increase as compared with the previous year, the total live births being 374 as compared with 324 in 1948, the birth rate was 19.9 as compared with that for England and Wales of 15.6.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 37.1, this shows a considerable increase on the previous year and is also high as compared with England and Wales (32).

DEATH RATE.

The crude death rate for the area was 13.1. For the first time for some years The Registrar General has provided "An area comparability factor" for correction of the Crude Rate by the operation of this factor.

The Death Rate of the area which has been corrected for inward and outward transfers was modified with regard to the age and sex distribution of the population, the final figure which is the true or Corrected Death Rate was 11.6 as compared with that for England and Wales of 11.7.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were no major epidemics of infectious diseases, though there was an increase in the number of cases of whooping cough notified, 4 cases of Anterio Poliomylitis (Infantile Paralysis) were also notified during the year.

HOUSING.

The position regarding housing still remain an acute problem, details with regard to the actual number of houses constructed, etc., will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

In connection with the shortage of housing accommodation, I consider it opportune to draw the attention of the Council to the increased number of respiratory cases of Tuberculosis notified, *i.e.*, 21 in the year 1949 as compared with 12 in the previous year.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE.

Both these services are essential factors in the housing of the population and the Council have given both these matters their serious consideration. Progress is being made but is of necessity slow, for further details I would refer to the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

INFANT WELFARE.

Though the provision of Infant Welfare Centres is not the responsibility of the Council it is of interest to note that Welfare Centres were instituted at Stoke, South Petherton and Martock during the year under review.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES.

Since the inception of the National Health Service Act there has been a regretable change in the nature of the School Dental Service. The main function of this service was that by frequent and routine inspections of school children to diagnose dental caries as early as possible and where possible to preserve their teeth by fillings and other conservative measures.

Due to lack of Dental Officers it is not now possible to carry out these surveys and in fact no survey has been carried out in the Yeovil Rural Schools for the past 2 years.

Figures for the period January—May 1948 and 1949 :—

	No. of Inspections.	No. requiring Treatment.	Extractions.		Fillings.	
			Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.
1948	983	495 (50.3%)	530	96	150	432
1949	352	294 (83.5%)	580	132	103	238

It will be noted that :—

(1) The percentage of children examined who required treatment has risen considerably.

(2) There has been a decrease in the number of teeth filled, *i.e.*, "saved," but an increase in the number of teeth whose condition was so bad that extraction was the only possible remedy.

The Somerset County Council who are the School dental authority are fully aware of the position which is widespread throughout the county. The County School Medical Officer in his Annual Report states "Difficulties caused by the reduction of the dental staff owing to the delay in adjusting remuneration levels as between dental officers working in the

Local Authority and General Practitioner's Service have become acute." In as much as the dental condition of school children for the Rural District is a factor affecting the health of the community, I think it proper to draw your attention to the state of affairs.

The above comments have also been published in my report to the Yeovil Borough Council, but as they apply with equal force to the Rural District I consider it advisable that this Council should also be aware of the position.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the Council and members of the staff for their continued support in carrying out my official duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. P. FOX.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	53,495 Acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) Resident Population, mid-1949... ...	18,740
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to Rate Books	6,002
Rateable Value	£81,825
Sum represented by a penny rate	£326

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	364	192	172
Illegitimate	10	4	6
Still Births—Legitimate	8	6	2
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Deaths	248	118	130

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population...	19.9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births...	23.5
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population ...	13.1
Corrected ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	11.66

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Births.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes ...	Nil	Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under One Year of Age.

No. of Deaths under 1 year	14
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	37.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ...	38.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	51
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH.	1949 Males	1949 Females
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	2	1
Syphilis	—	—
Influenza	2	—
Measles	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—
Cancer	23	28
Diabetes	—	—
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	9	19
Heart Disease	35	36
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	5	5
Bronchitis	6	8
Pneumonia	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
Diarrhœa	—	—
Appendicitis	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	3	3
Nephritis	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—
Premature Births	1	5
Congenital Causes	4	1
Suicide	3	—
Road Traffic	—	—
Other Violence	4	2
All other Causes	12	15
Total Deaths ...	118	130

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES
   (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES
   (c) CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES
   } No Change.
   (d) NURSING IN THE HOME.

   Two Health Visitors and Twelve District Nurses attend to the Midwifery, Nursing, and Infant Welfare work in the District.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLIES—

   Closworth—Scheme of water supply for the village completed.

   Odcombe—Construction of 1,000,000 gallon covered concrete reservoir completed.

   Ilchester—Extension of main from Halfway House (3,600 yards 9in. main and 900 yards 6in. main) nearing completion.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

   Chilthorne Domer—Work on scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal nearing completion.

   Ilchester—Work on scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal about to be commenced.

   Rivers and Streams—No action taken.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

   Refuse Collection is undertaken in all Parishes.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections of Sewerage and Drainage	173
Inspections for Nuisances	161
Informal Notices served	Nil
Drainage Tests and Inspections...	168
Rooms Disinfected	15
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	102

Inspection of Water Supplies	328
Slaughterhouse Inspections	162
Rodent Control Investigations	175

Shops and Offices.—It was not found necessary to take any special action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

Smoke Abatement.—It was not found necessary to take any action.

SECTION D.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H., or Housing Acts) ...	952
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1054
2 (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(c)	Number of houses in which no action was found necessary	Nil
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	Nil

HOUSING ACTION.

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	48
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	Nil

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
	(a) By Owners	40
	(b) By Local Authority...	Nil

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertaking was given not to let	10

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	100 estimated
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ...	210 ,,
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	700 ,,
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	23
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	20
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	249
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register (as at 30/9/49) ...	459
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:	
(i) Distributors only	9
(ii) Distributors who are also Producers ...	74
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected...	102

SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN FOR EXAMINATION.

For Tubercle Bacilli	Nil
Reported unsatisfactory	—

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed	17

CARCASES INSPECTED.

Cows	—
Calves	—
Sheep and Lambs	—
Pigs	—
Horses	2,173

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned :

Cows	—
Pigs	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—

NUMBER OF BAKEHOUSES IN THE DISTRICT... 20

NUMBER OF OFFENSIVE TRADES CARRIED ON IN THE DISTRICT 1

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following food was condemned during the year :

Bacon and Ham ...	17 lbs. 7½ ozs.
Beef	104 lbs.
Calves Sweetbread ...	7 lbs.
Ox Heads	1
Sweets	33 lbs. 3 ozs.
Cheese	2 lbs. 5 ozs.
Horseflesh	608 lbs.
Horse Liver	2,520 lbs.

CANNED AND DRIED FOODS.

Meat	19 tins
Vegetables	33 tins
Jam	1 tin
Fish	4 tins
Milk	31 tins
Dried Fruit	221¼ lbs.
Dried Vegetables	54½ lbs.
Pickled Sausages	155 lbs.

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination...169
Number of Samples reported satisfactory 138
Number of Samples reported not entirely satisfactory ... 10
Number of Samples reported unsatisfactory 21

ADULTERATION.

The Council is not a Local Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

134 patients were admitted to South Petherton Isolation Hospital during the year. 46 of them were from the Yeovil Rural District.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Hospital Deaths	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	9	3	—	—
Dysentery	2	1	—	—
Measles	53	2	—	—
Whooping Cough... ...	60	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	5	5	—	—
Erysipelas...	2	2	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—
Poliomylitis	4	4	—	—
Food Piosoning	2	2	—	—

Infectious Diseases admitted South Petherton Hospital :—

Diphtheria	1	Pyrexia	1
Meningitis	2	Measles with Pneumonia...	2
Pneumonia	7	Poliomylitis	4
Scarlet Fever... ...	3	Dysentery	2
Erysipelas	2	Food Poisoning ...	2

Non-Infectious Diseases admitted to South Petherton Hospital :

Dermatitis	1	Food Poisoning ...	2
Diarrhoea with vomiting...	2	Virus Infection ...	1
Cardiac Failure ...	1	Meningitis	1
Observation	1	Bronchial Asthma ...	1
Mumps	2	Impetigo	1
Mother with Baby ...	1	Glandular Fever ...	1
Infective Parotitis ...	1	Acute Nephritis ...	1
Tonsillitis	1	Arthritis	1
Enteritis	1	Rheumatic Fever ...	1
Premature Baby ...	1	Rheumatism	1
Septic Rash	1		

ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

	Under 1 yr.	1—2 yrs	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs	Over 65.
Scarlet Fever			1	1	1	2	2	1		1		
Dysentery		1						1				
Whooping Cough....	6	4	14	10	10	16						
Measles	1	5	10	11	6	17	1		2			
Puerperal Pyrexia....									1			
Pneumonia			1				1		2		1	
Erysipelas										1	1	
Malaria										1		
Poliomylitis							1	1	2			
Food Poisoning									2			

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAK.

A minor outbreak of food poisoning affecting 2 persons, husband and wife, occurred in July, 1949. The presumptive cause was tinned Danish Brawn which was infected with staphylococcal organisms subsequently to being opened. No deaths occurred nor was there any other case.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1								
1-5			1					
5-15								
15-25	3	4			2			
25-35	2	6			1			
35-45	3							
45-55				1			1	
55-65	2				1			1
65 and upwards ...		1			2			
Total	10	11	1	1	6	—	1	1

Total New Cases 23. Deaths 8.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1947.

Action under Section 47 of the above Act was taken in one case only during the year. This was in regard to a man age 55, who was bedridden, incontinent and mentally backward. He was admitted to Summerlands Hospital on 1st June, 1949, and was still an inmate on the 31st December, 1949.

Yeovil Rural District Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Yeovil Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1949.

HOUSING.

The standard of housing accommodation in the district remains substantially the same as for the previous year. There was, however, an increase in the number of new permanent houses completed by the Council and private enterprise during the year.

The following houses were completed by the Council :—

(a) Permanent Traditional Houses	28
(b) Permanent Prefabricated Houses	38
(c) Conversion of Huts into Living Accommodation...	Nil

There were in course of erection at the end of the year :—

(a) Permanent Traditional Houses	52
(b) Permanent Prefabricated Houses	Nil

In addition to the Council's programme, the following houses were completed by private enterprise :—

(a) Permanent Traditional Houses	20
(b) Conversions of buildings into Houses	8
(c) Temporary Houses	1

There were in course of erection by private enterprise at the end of the year :—

Permanent Traditional Houses	8
Temporary Houses	2

BUILDING LICENSING.

The powers delegated to Local Authorities by the Minister of Works under the control of Civil Building (Defence Regulation 56A) remained substantially unchanged.

Licences were granted as follows :

(a)	New Houses—Private Enterprise	14
(b)	Conversions and Adaptations	26
(c)	Other Work (repairs and maintenance, etc.) ...	40
	Total	80
	Applications for Licences Refused	Nil

PLANS.

A. Building Byelaws ;

No. of Plans approved under the Council's Building Byelaws	211
Disapproval under Building Bye-laws	3
Total...	214

B. Town & Country Planning Act, 1947 :

No. of Plans submitted and passed to the Planning Authority with the Council's observations ...	268

WATER SUPPLY.

Extensions or Improvements of Supplies :—

Closworth—Scheme of water supply for the village completed.

Odcombe—Construction of 1,000,000 gallon covered concrete reservoir completed.

Ilchester—Extension of main from Halfway House (3,600 yards 9in. main and 900 yards 6in. main) nearing completion.

169 samples of water, from public and private supplies, were submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination, as follows :—

	Public Supplies.	Private Supplies.
Total No. of Samples taken ...	135	34
Satisfactory	123	15
Not quite satisfactory ...	6	4
Unsatisfactory	6	15
	135	34

There was again a general shortage of water in the district and it was necessary, as in the previous year, to impose restrictions on consumers in several parishes.

The preparation of the proposed comprehensive scheme of water supply, comprising an impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham and large trunk mains throughout the district to link up most of the existing mains, was continued and submitted to the Ministry of Health. A public inquiry was held and the Minister's approval awaited.

The following is a summary of the present position regarding houses and population supplied with water :—

	No. of Houses.	Population.
Public supply direct into houses ...	4,264	13,432
Public supply by means of stand-pipes	1,261	3,951
Private piped supplies (supplying more than 3 houses) ...	99	310
Without a piped water supply, or where the supply is for 3, or fewer, houses	360	1,307
Totals ...	5,984	19,000

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Chilthorne Domer—Work on scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal nearing completion.

Ilchester—Work on scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal about to be commenced.

East & West Coker—This scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Health and a Local Inquiry held on the 9th December. The Minister's decision is awaited.

Mudford and Haselbury Plucknett—Schemes for these parishes are in course of preparation.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The centralised slaughtering of animals outside the district was continued.

16 licences in respect of private slaughterhouses were renewed during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are 20 Bakehouses in the District.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, responsibility for the registration of dairy farms and dairy farmers was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as from the 1st October.

No. of Milk Retailers in the District : 9.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE.

The amount of salvageable materials collected during 1949 and the prices realised are as follows :—

	Amount Collected.		Value.	
Waste Paper	50 tons	3 cwts.	£316	6
Textiles		19 cwts.	16	14
Metals	23 tons	9 cwts.	70	7
		Total ...	£403	7

RODENT CONTROL.

The campaign against rats was continued with good results.

35 infestations on business premises, and 70 infestations on private premises, were dealt with.

In addition, 70 infestations on the Council's own properties—*e.g.* Council Houses, Sewage Disposal Works, Refuse Tips—were dealt with successfully.

Sewers were test baited and found generally to be free from infestation.

603 dead rats were recovered during the year, with an estimated total kill of 3,577 rats.

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. WILSON,

Senior Sanitary Inspector,

Inspector of Meat and other Foods,

Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.